

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IGA-02 L-03 INT-08 DRC-01 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1687

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 0758

DEPT FOR NEA/ARP, LUMSDEN AND AID

DEPT PASS INTERIOR

EO 11652/NA

TAGS: BEXP, TECH, TC, US

SUBJ: REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL SERVICES--REQUEST FOR
U.S. EXPERTS TO STUDY DAM CONSTRUCTION IN UAE

REF: A. STATE 101773

B. STATE 093172

1. BECAUSE SHAIKH ZAYID AND HIS KEY ADVISORS WERE ABSENT FROM ABU DHABI UNTIL END NF MAY, EMB WAS UNABLE UNTIL RECENTLY TO CONVEY CONTENTS OF PROPOSAL CONTAINED REFTELS. WE UNDERSTAND SHAIKH ZAYID MOST ANXIOUS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH DAM STUDY AND THEREFORE VERY PLEASED WITH PROMPT USG RESPONSE. ON JUNE 13 EMB INFORMED BY DG OF OFFICE PRESIDENCY AFFAIRS, ALI SHURAFI, THAT ZAYID HAS APPROVED PROPOSAL IN ITS ENTIREITY, INCLUDING COST ESTIMATE, AND HAS REQUESTED THAT USG DETAIL EXPERTS TO MAKE ON-SITE STUDY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. EMB OFF INFORMED SHURAFI THAT CONSIDERING FACT WE NOW AT ONSET OF SUMMER VACATION PERIOD, AND EXPERTS WOULD HAVE TO BE DRAWN FROM REGULAR COMPLEMENT OF BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, IT CONCEIVABLE THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ARRIVE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. SHURAFI UNDERSTOOD THIS, BUT REITERATED THAT ZAYID WISHES TO MOVE AHEAD PROMPTLY ON SURVEY SINCE UNTIL

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STUDY OF AREA'S WATER RESOURCES COMPLETED, DECISION

ON VARIOUYXAGRICULTURAL PROJECTS MUST BE HELD IN
ABEYANCE.

2. EMB HAS LEARNED THAT EXCELLENT HYDROLOGICAL STUDY
OF AL-AIN AREA PREPARED FEW YEARS AGO BY BRITISH CONSULT-
ING FIRM, SIR ALEXANDER GIBB AND PARTNERS. WE IN-
FORMED SHURAFI THAT US EXPERTS COULD PROCEED MORE
EXPEDITIOUSLY WITH THEIR STUDY IF GIVEN ACCESS TO EX-
ISTING WATER DATA AND ANY PREVIOUS STUDIES. PROMIS-
ING FULLEST POSSIBLE COOPERATION, SHURAFI SAID HE WILL
OBTAIN COPY OF GIBB'S STUDY WITHIN COMING WEEK FOR EMB
TO SEND TO WASHINGTON. HE IS ALSO CHECKING WITH UAE
MINY AGRICULTURE TO DETERMINE IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER
STUDIES OR INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO EXPERTS
IN PREPARATION OF SURVEY REPORT. UAEG ALSO PRE-
PARED PROVIDE FULL FACILITATIVE SUPPORT FOR 2-MAN TEAM,
I.E. HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS, TRANSPORTATION, ETC.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT REQUESTED INFORM EMB SOONEST
WHEN BUREAU OF RECLAMATION EXPERTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO
VISIT UAE.
STERNER

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